



Cordova for President

Moving Forward Together



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The United States Constitution

Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution imposes only three eligibility requirements on persons serving as president, based on the officeholder's age, time of residency in the U.S., and citizenship status:

U.S. Constitution – Presidential Candidate Eligibility

"No person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty-five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States."

Executive Order

on the Decriminalization of Mental Health and Addiction

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Preamble

The United States must end the cycle of systemic neglect that has led to the criminalization of mental health conditions and substance use disorders. States have long ignored the systemic issues they themselves have created—failing to provide living wages, allowing unaffordable housing markets to grow unchecked, and stripping public health systems of the resources necessary to address mental illness and addiction. The government's duty is to ensure that every individual has the opportunity to prosper, free from the threat of unjust incarceration due to health-related conditions. This Executive Order makes clear that federal funding will no longer support states that continue to punish rather than treat individuals suffering from mental health crises and substance use disorders. It is the responsibility of states to create an environment that fosters recovery, opportunity, and dignity by implementing necessary systemic reforms such as raising wages, enforcing affordable housing policies, and expanding access to healthcare and mental health services. Any state that refuses to correct these systemic failures will no longer receive federal resources that enable these injustices.

To ensure states have viable alternatives, the federal government will establish dedicated funding mechanisms for **transitional housing, community-based mental health facilities, and rehabilitation programs**, with eligibility restricted to **nonprofit entities**. These funds will be made available to states that adopt evidence-based, treatment-focused approaches, ensuring that every individual in crisis has access to **proper care, housing, and rehabilitation rather than incarceration**.



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Section 1. Purpose

Mental health conditions and substance use disorders are public health issues, not crimes. The criminalization of mental illness and addiction has contributed to mass incarceration, systemic inequalities, and a failure to provide adequate care for individuals in need. This Executive Order seeks to ensure that federal funds are used to support treatment and rehabilitation rather than the punitive incarceration of individuals struggling with mental health conditions and substance use disorders.

Section 2. Prohibition on Federal Funding for States Criminalizing Mental Health and Addiction

(a) Effective immediately, any state that continues to criminalize mental health crises or substance use disorders, rather than addressing them as medical conditions, shall be subject to the withdrawal or restriction of federal funding in the following areas:

- **Law Enforcement Grants:** Federal funding for state and local law enforcement agencies shall be revoked if they continue to arrest or incarcerate individuals solely for mental health crises or nonviolent drug possession instead of referring them to treatment programs.
- **Prison & Correctional Institution Funding:** States that continue to incarcerate individuals for nonviolent drug offenses or mental health-related incidents shall lose federal funding allocated for prison expansion and correctional operations.
- **Medicaid and Healthcare Grants:** States failing to prioritize treatment and rehabilitation over incarceration shall face a reduction in Medicaid expansion funds and public health grants.
- **Housing & Homelessness Assistance:** Federal housing and homelessness prevention funds will be withheld from states that criminalize homelessness and refuse to implement housing-first policies for individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders.
- **Education & Community Health Grants:** States that do not implement school-based mental health programs and early intervention efforts will see reductions in federal education and community healthcare funding.

Section 3. Federal Incentives for States Prioritizing Treatment



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(a) States that transition from punitive measures to treatment-based responses shall receive priority access to federal grants, including but not limited to:

- Funding for mental health crisis response teams, trained in de-escalation and rehabilitation.
- Support for addiction treatment programs, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and rehabilitation centers.
- Housing-first initiatives to prevent criminalization of individuals with untreated mental health and addiction-related conditions.
- Expansion of community-based behavioral health services.
- Access to **new federal funds** for building **transitional housing and community-based mental health and rehabilitation centers**, restricted to **nonprofit entities**, to replace prison-based approaches.

(b) States demonstrating significant reductions in the incarceration of individuals with mental health and addiction-related offenses shall be eligible for **bonus federal grants** to expand public health infrastructure and employment support services.

Section 4. Prohibition on the Use of Prisons for Mental Health and Addiction Treatment

(a) No federal, state, or local government entity shall utilize the prison system as a substitute for mental health care or addiction treatment. Individuals experiencing mental health crises or substance use disorders shall be diverted to appropriate treatment facilities, crisis response teams, or rehabilitation centers. (b) The **Department of Justice (DOJ)** shall investigate and take action against any state that continues to use prisons or jails as de facto mental health facilities. (c) Federal funding shall not be used to expand or operate prison-based mental health or addiction programs unless they are explicitly designed for **diversion and rehabilitation**, separate from punitive incarceration. (d) States will be **required to demonstrate investment in alternative infrastructure**, such as **community-based treatment centers and transitional housing**, as a condition for receiving any federal mental health and addiction treatment funding. All funding provided for these alternatives shall be restricted to **nonprofit organizations** to prevent profiteering from vulnerable populations.

Section 5. Civil Rights & Federal Oversight

(a) The **Department of Justice (DOJ)** shall investigate states that disproportionately criminalize



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mental illness and addiction to determine if their practices violate federal civil rights laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). (b) The **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** shall provide guidance to states on implementing treatment-first policies and assist with the transition from criminalization to rehabilitation-based frameworks. (c) The **Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** shall work with states to shift funding toward supportive housing models that help individuals recover rather than cycle through jails and shelters.

Section 6. Enforcement & Compliance

(a) Federal agencies shall conduct an annual review of each state's criminal justice policies regarding mental health and addiction. States found to be in violation will receive written notice and a 90-day period to implement corrective actions. (b) Failure to comply with corrective actions will result in the **immediate suspension of applicable federal funds** and an **investigation by the DOJ** for potential civil rights violations.

Section 7. General Provisions

(a) This Executive Order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations. (b) This order does not create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, officers, employees, or any other person.

Section 8. Effective Date

This order is effective immediately upon signing.

Signed,

Vincent Cordova
President of the United States

January 20, 2028